

John Hurley House
3919 O Street, N.W.
(Georgetown)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-200

HABS,
DC,
GEO,
136-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No.DC-200

JOHN HURLEY HOUSE

Location: 3619 O Street, N.W. (Georgetown)
Washington D.C.

Present Owners and Occupants: President and Directors of Georgetown
College (1969).

Present Use: Georgetown University Office for Student
Development (1969).

Significance: The interior of this building has been
remodeled for office use without des-
troying the residential character of its
nineteenth century exterior.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1864. In 1864 John Hurley bought the easterly 20 feet of Lot 113 for \$300. A few months later he and his wife took a deed of trust on the property, probably to borrow money for construction.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1248, Lot 806 in Washington, D.C. (formerly Square 78, Lot 113 in Threlkeld's Addition to Georgetown). O Street was formerly called Second Street. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1864 Patrick McCarthy and wife, Julia to John Hurley
Deed May 11, 1864 Recorded June 10, 1864
Liber NCT 38, folio 53
Easterly 20 feet on Lot 113

1867 John Hurley and wife, Catherine to William D. Cassein
F. W. Jones
Deed of Trust September 7, 1867 Recorded September 9,
1867
Liber ECE 16, folio 32
John Hurley died intestate leaving as his only heirs
Bridget Reed, John Hurley, James Hurley and Annie
Hurley.

- 1897 Bridget Reed and husband, David S., John Hurley, Annie Hurley, James Hurley, all unmarried, to Jesse H. Wilson Levin S. Frey
Deed of Trust February 13, 1897 Recorded February 16, 1897
Liber 2200, folio 161
- 1905 James Hurley, unmarried, to David S. Reed
Deed March 27, 1905 Recorded March 27, 1905
Liber 2907, folio 53
Bridget Reed died intestate, leaving three children, Frank, Raymond, and Gertrude. John and Annie Hurley died intestate and unmarried.
- 1923 Frank Reed and wife, Bessie Raymond Reed and Marie C. Gertrude Reed, unmarried, to Dorcas M. Reed (widow of David S.)
Deed January 23, 1923 Recorded January 24, 1923
Liber 4886, folio 104
- 1924 Dorcas M. Reed, widow, May J. Johnston, widow
Deed February 8, 1924 Recorded February 8, 1924
Liber 5148, folio 381

May J. Johnston, widow, to Rebecca C. Drysdale
Deed March 25, 1924 Recorded March 25, 1924
Liber 5195, folio 58
- 1926 Rebecca C. Drysdale to John B. Breneman and wife
Deed February 15, 1926 Recorded February 19, 1926
Liber 5711, folio 115
- 1929 John B. Breneman and wife to Albert W. Hamill
Deed July 15, 1929 Recorded July 13, 1929
Liber 6349, folio 347

Albert W. Hamill to George Miller, J. Fendall Coughlan
Deed July 24, 1929 Recorded September 6, 1929
Liber 6363, folio 223
- 1944 George Miller, J. Fendall Coughlan to The President and Directors of Georgetown College
Deed August 1, 1929 Recorded May 24, 1944
Liber 7972, folio 98

4. Alterations and additions: The interior was remodeled as office space after purchase by Georgetown University in 1944.

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C. Bibliography:

Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of
Georgetown (D.C.), 1800-1879: Assessment of Real and Personal
Property, Microcopy 605, Roll 7 (1800-1807).

Prepared by Volunteers for the
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington D.C.
1969.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Originally a private rowhouse, this building has been converted to office use in recent years, completely destroying the interior, yet retaining the exterior character of the two-story row surrounding it.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, well maintained.

B. Technical Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 16'-0" by 35'-9", with rear ell. Originally two bays wide across O Street facade, second floor still has two windows, but first floor has door and a double window.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame with stucco front, clapboard side; ell at rear of brick.
4. Porches: Brick steps with a simple iron rail at front; two-story wood porch along east side of ell at rear for its full length.
5. Chimneys: One on west wall.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: Door is mid-twentieth century six panel "colonial;" casing is simple with a pediment above, also mid-twentieth century.
 - b. Windows and shutters: One over one light double hung wood sash; wood louvered shutters. All mid-twentieth century.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: Gable; ridge running eastwest; metal covering.
 - b. Framing: Wood.
 - c. Cornice: Bracketed wood; hanging metal gutter.

C. Description of Interior:

Because the building has been completely renovated several times, nothing remains of the original plan nor of the original decorative features.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: One of several houses of similar scale forming the north side of O Street. No front yard; ample rear yard.
2. Enclosures: Rear yard enclosed with wood fence; board gate access to rear yard from street.
3. Walks: Brick and concrete.
4. Landscaping: Simple residential planting.

Prepared by The Office of
Walter G. Peter, Jr., AIA
Architect
December 6, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture - Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia". Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by the office of Walter G. Peter, Jr., AIA. The photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.